



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

JUN 11 2007

RECEIVED

Marcy Leavitt, Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
State of New Mexico Environment Department  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

JUN 18 2007

SURFACE WATER  
QUALITY BUREAU

Re: Approval of the TMDL for the WQCC Approved Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Main Stem of the Lower Rio Grande (from the International Boundary with Mexico to Elephant Butte Dam) for E.coli

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 has reviewed the final total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) transmitted to Miguel Flores on May 8, 2007, for the Lower Rio Grande watershed. Following our review and evaluation of this TMDL package developed by the State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for Escherichia coli (E.coli) in the segments of the Lower Rio Grande, EPA is pleased to approve the following TMDLs:

Waterbody Name / 303(d) List ID	Pollutant (loading expression)
Lower Rio Grande NM-2101_00	E.coli (colonies/day)
Lower Rio Grande NM-2101_10	E.coli (colonies/day)

This decision includes all wasteload and load allocations assigned on these listed waters. Our analysis indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of water quality standards.

This approval action involves a total of 2 TMDLs for water quality limited segments on New Mexico's 2004 §303(d) list. Included in this TMDL submittal, was a TMDL Implementation Plan. Presently, EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Therefore, EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the TMDL Implementation Plan submitted by NMED.

We look forward to implementation of these TMDLs, and continuing to work collaboratively with NMED on water quality issues in the Lower Rio Grande watershed. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (214) 665-7101, or you may call Curry Jones of my staff at (214) 665-6793.

Sincerely,

*Larry Wright for*

Miguel I. Flores  
Director,  
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures